

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT PFOR JA KS

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ON ROK PROTEST AGAINST DIET AND PRESS

HANDLING OF KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: TOKYO 10941

1. SUNDAY PRESS IN JAPAN FEATURED REPORTS THAT ROK EMBASSY OFFICER DELIVERED PROTEST TO JAPAN SATURDAY ABOUT WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY JAPANESE NEWSMEN AND DIET MEMBERS TO IMPLICATE ROK EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN JAPAN IN KIM TAE-CHUNG ABDUCTION. PROTEST WARNED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN ROK AND JAPAN COULD DETERIORATE IF SITUATION GOES ON AS IT HAS BEEN. PRESS NOTES THAT THIS FIRST PROTEST BY ROK RELATING TO KIM CASE.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, WRITTEN PROTEST WAS PRESENTED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS BY ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR LEE SANG-CHIN TO MOFA, WHERE HE RECEIVED BY ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU COUNSELOR YOSUKE NAKAE.

3. IN REPORTING GIST OF WRITTEN PROTEST, PRESS SAID THAT ROKG REGRETTED THAT STATEMENTS IN DIET AND JAPANESE PRESS DELIBERATELY SOUGHT TO MISLEAD PUBLIC OPINION BY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT ROK OFFICIALS IN JAPAN WERE INVOLVED IN KIM CASE. PROTEST

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SAID TO NOTE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PHOTOGRAPH SUBMITTED TO

LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FRIDAY BY SOCIALIST DIETMAN (I.E. YANOSUKE NARAZAKI) WHICH CAST UNWARRANTED SUSPICION ON ROK EMBASSY OFFICIAL. WRITTEN PROTEST SAID TO RECONFIRM THAT NO OFFICIALS AT ROK EMBASSY, CONSULATE GENERAL OR CONSULATES IN JAPAN WERE INVOLVED IN KIM CASE.

4. MOFA SOURCES WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT LEE HAD ONLY REPEATED EARLIER DENIALS BY ROKG OF INVOLVEMENT IN CASE.

5. ALTHOUGH MOFA SOURCES QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PROTEST DID NOT CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN JAPAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SUSUMU NIKAI DO TOLD PRESS LATER THAT ROK EMBASSY IS GOING TOO FAR IF IT INTERPRETS NEWS GATHERING AS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE ROK EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN KIM CASE. NIKAI DO IN UNUSUALLY PRICKLY STATEMENT, SAID THAT JAPANESE PRESS HAS FREEDOM TO GATHER NEWS, AND FURTHER THAT DIET MEMBERS ARE FREE TO PRESENT FACTS BEARING ON CASE.

6. EARLIER, MAN IN PHOTO PRODUCED IN DIET BY NARAZAKI, IDENTIFIED AS LEE TAE-HOON, FIRST SECRETARY, ROK EMBASSY. LEE THEN GAVE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO YOMIURI FRIDAY NIGHT IN WHICH HE FLATLY DENIED ANY PART IN AUGUST 8 ABDUCTION OF KIM, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD LODGE PROTEST AGAINST NARAZAKI ACTION IN DIET THROUGH FOREIGN OFFICE ON SATURDAY.

7. COMMENT: SINCE OUTSET OF KIM CASE, ROK HAS BEEN PUMMELED DAILY IN JAPANESE MEDIA. HOWEVER, NARAZAKI ALLEGATION AGAINST LEE TAE-HOON PROVIDED ROK EMBASSY WITH FIRST SOLID OPPORTUNITY FOR ROK TO ATTEMPT TO COUNTER FLOOD OF ALLEGATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS.

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